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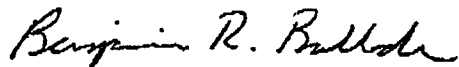
Dear Madam:

As someone familiar with computing and the computing industry and also with the negative effects of Microsoft's monopoly in operating systems and software, I do not see how the proposed settlement can remedy the antitrust violations for which Microsoft has been found guilty. Because Microsoft has already been found in violation, and this is the penalty phase of the case, the settlement should contain penalties that will promote competition and prevent any recurrence of antitrust violations by Microsoft. I would suggest that there are, at minimum, three additional features that the settlement should include.

- First, Microsoft's products must be extra-cost options in the purchase of new computers, so that users are not forced to purchase the software if they do not wish to do so. The price difference between a computer with and without Microsoft software must reflect the true cost of such software to the consumer.
- Second, Microsoft's present and future document file formats (Word, Excel, etc.) must be fully documented and made public, so that documents created in Microsoft applications may be read by other programs such as Word Perfect, Star Office and other programs from different manufacturers. I would even go so far as to suggest that Microsoft be required to completely abandon its proprietary file formats and to use instead a standard format such as XML. In addition, Microsoft should be required to adhere precisely to the standard XML format and not be allowed to deviate even slightly from it.
- Third, all Microsoft networking protocols must likewise be fully documented and approved by an independent network protocol body. This is necessary to prevent Microsoft from taking control of the internet, thus making it impossible to use the internet with other operating systems and software.

I am very concerned about the fact that a computing monoculture has developed in this country and that this makes not only the internet but our business and government infrastructure highly vulnerable to attack by terrorists and others who would do us harm. It is imperative that Microsoft be constrained from further anti-competitive activities so that competition can develop in the arena of computer operating systems and software. A stronger remedy than the one proposed will benefit everyone, including those who choose to use Microsoft's products.

Sincerely,



Benjamin R. Bullock